

Eight offenders receive certificates

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Commissioner J. David Donahue



Eight offenders receive certificates at Indiana State Prison.

Story By:

Staff Reporters

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Indiana State Prison Superintendent Ed Buss this week presented eight offenders who are part of PEN Products with certificates that certify they have worked in farm operations for 13,734 hours.

Michael Herron, director of PEN Products, said providing the offenders with certificates proves they have a work history even if they have been incarcerated.

"PEN Products is here to give jobs to the offenders and to assist in developing skills; this is why we are certifying your work record so you have something tangible to present to prospective employers as you re-enter your communities," said Herron.

Lin Paul, Farm and Food Operations manager for PEN Products, told the offenders he was raised on a farm and worked the land for 10 years as an adult. He said not a day goes by that he does not evaluate the weather and think what he could do if he were farming.

Farm Manager Michael Meyer praised the men in their performance and indicated several of them have become key people he relies on to get the job done.

Receiving certificates were John Francher, 1,950 hours; Quintin Gibbens, 2,478 hours; Michael Graves, 2,023 hours; William Joseph, 1,850 hours; Benjamin Kettonen, 1,038 hours; Russell Lewis, 1,620 hours; Elmer Plank, 1,530 hours; and Steve Vannoster, 1,245 hours.

Commissioner J. David Donahue said, "The development of this program is very important to the offenders when they search for a job upon release. Now they will have a certification that indicates they have developed marketable skills in a given field and gained considerable experience."

About The Department of Correction

The Department employs over 8,000 employees and houses 24,000 adult and juveniles in 32 facilities, ranging from minimum to maximum custody, prison camps, juvenile facilities and work release centers. The Department's home page on the Internet can be found at: <http://www.in.gov/indcorrection>. The Department's Re-entry Site can be found: <http://www.reentry.in.gov>.